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# Boars and Bison

Sculptor Hamish Mackie's work has taken him from the forests of the Ardennes to the wilds of Canada



Hamish Mackie's *Wild Boar Sounder*

**S**culptor Hamish Mackie, whose work in bronze and other cast metals famously captures a huge range of animal and human life, travels the world to research his subjects. Here he tells us about some of his recent works.

In one of his latest creations, after spending many happy hours in the Ardennes studying wild boar, Hamish has created a 'sounder' of seven wild boar sculptures.

"A 'sounder' is a female-dominated family group of wild boar, comprising several generations with and without offspring, led by the most mature breeding female" he explains. "Youngsters from 13 to 24 months are known as *überläufer*."

The wild boar has been used as an emblem in art since antiquity, with the earliest known depiction drawn 45,500 years ago. The most well known is *Il Porcellino*, a bronze fountain of a boar in Florence, cast in around 1634 after a marble original.

Wild boar are one of the most wide-ranging mammals in the world, listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the most invasive species. They number more than ten million in the EU alone. After man, the grey wolf is the main predator of wild boar.

## BEHAVIOUR

Hamish found the wild boar fascinating to observe. "Each age and sex of wild boar move and behave in a very different way" he explains. "I have enjoyed putting these differences into my sculptures; the boar at the back having a much heavier gait than the lighter young."

"When a sounder is running past, it is hard to distinguish the age and sex of the boars. I have incorporated the telltale signs in these sculptures, right down to tail-hair length."

*Wild Boar Trio of Youngsters / Überläufer* is a numbered edition of 12, signed by Hamish Mackie, measuring 22x19x105cm.

The entire group of wild boar sculptures; the *Wild Boar Sounder*, is available to purchase together or individually – *Wild Boar Keiler*, *Wild Boar Bachan*, *Wild Boar Trio Überläufer*, and *Wild Boar Pair Frischlinge*.

Sculptures can be shipped worldwide at cost, with no VAT payable on exports outside the EU.

Otherwise, Hamish has contributed a *Hares Monumental* sculpture to *Hares of Hampshire*, a public art charity event created by the Murray Parish Trust and Wild in Art in Southampton.

Launched at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year and exhibited in the Royal Enclosure at Royal Ascot 2022, the three-times lifesize sculpture meets Hamish's desire to challenge himself to produce a large-scale sculpture that would look dramatic within a landscape. It's available in a numbered edition of nine.

And, after undertaking a fascinating research trip to Canada, Hamish promises a bison sculpture to come soon. "We drove very early one morning from Edmonton to Elk Island National Park for the day, to research bison. We saw quite a few, but for research purposes the best one to photograph was an elderly male happily feeding and hanging out by the side of the road. It was a really wonderful park to visit and a real highlight for me."

Other works in progress include a proposal for a bespoke gold octopus with 650 sapphires in its suckers, a full-size boar in a numbered edition of 12, and a cheetah, 37cm long and available in a numbered edition of 12 - all impressive enough for any bestiary. ♦

[www.hamishmackie.com](http://www.hamishmackie.com)



# Hamish Mackie

HAMISH MACKIE SCULPTURE

LIFE IN BRONZE

